

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

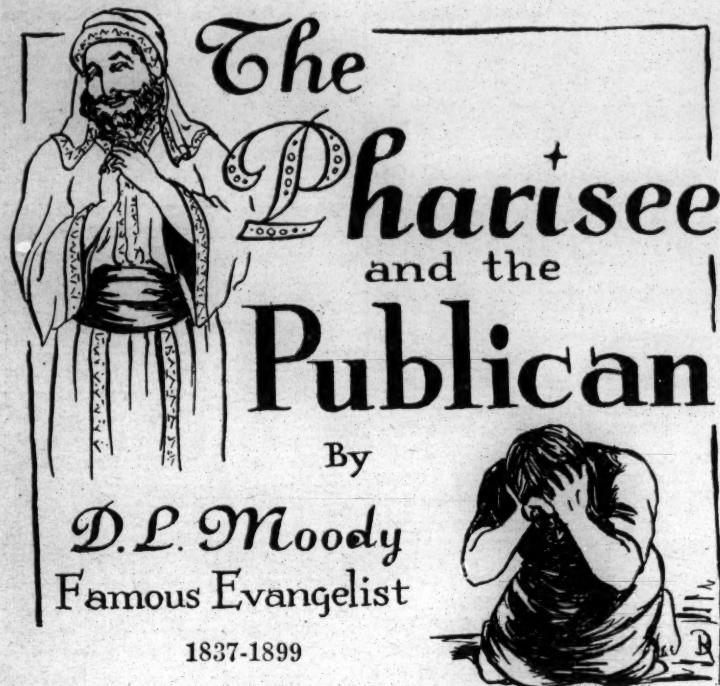
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"And He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."—Luke 18:9-14.

Here are two representative men; and I suppose you might divide this audience into the two classes they stand for. One of them trusts in his own righteousness; the other doesn't have any righteousness to trust in, and so he goes to the Lord.

I think this whole community might be divided into Pharisees and Publicans.

The Self-Righteous Pharisee

Now let us take a look at this Pharisee, whose picture Christ has painted for us. His spirit is very common among certain classes of people. He is all the time measuring himself by his neighbors. He is proud and conceited—thinks he is "not as other men." Ah, my friends, pride is a plant which grows in all sorts of climates and all sorts of soils. It is one of the greatest enemies to the kingdom of Christ. Nebuchadnezzar lost his throne and reason by it; by it Lucifer fell from Heaven, for even up among the angels he raised the flag of revolt close by the throne of God. How many people there are who, like this Pharisee, are just living on the forms of religion! If you will only give them the show, they don't care any

(Continued on page 5)

I Love Christmas

A new, beautiful Christmas gift book for you!

For our friends, we have prepared a beautiful book as a gift for Christmas. What a charming, lovely thing it is! What a rich gift! All about the shepherds to whom the birth of Jesus was announced . . . about the angels . . . about the wise men from the East who brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Tender, devotional, scriptural messages on the birth of the Saviour. Here is a rich-looking gift book in Christmas colors with expensive-looking library hard binding.

It is the kind of book every Christian will want for himself to read and meditate upon throughout the Christmas season. It is the kind of gift that will be most gratefully received by Christians everywhere. It is the kind of gift you may give to unsaved people, knowing that they will be flattered by the richness and suitableness of the gift, and will thus read sweet, tender gospel messages which they otherwise might not receive so well. The book is full of spiritual meat. It has six blessed full-length messages on Bible themes about the birth of Jesus. And we are printing this book, *I Love Christmas*, in order to give copies to you, our friends.

You May Have the \$2 Book Free With Three Subscriptions for \$5.00

Readers know that THE SWORD OF THE LORD subscription price is \$2.50 per year in the United States, \$3.00 per year in Canada and foreign countries, or \$5.00 for three years in the United States, \$6.50 for three years in Canada

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D. L. Moody, famed evangelist who founded Moody Church

Another Corollary of Christ's Unpredictable Second Coming Is That

SAINTS CANNOT GO THROUGH THE GREAT TRIBULATION

A Bible Answer to the Growing Fad of Post-Tribulation Rapture Teaching

By Evangelist John R. Rice

Recently there has arisen a fad, a widespread teaching that the saints may go through tribulation. This teaching affirms a "post-tribulation rapture." (Some few teach that Christ will come in the midst of the Great Tribulation). I speak kindly when I say that I am convinced those who so teach are mistaken, and I believe we can prove it from the Bible.

It is surprising how widespread in the last two or three years has become this post-tribulation rapture theory. In the *Christian Life* magazine for February, 1955, there is a joint discussion on "Will the Church Go Through the Tribulation?" Dr. Harold John Ockenga, pastor of Park Street Church, Boston, and chairman of the board of Fuller Theological Seminary and one of the strongest leaders of the National Association of

Evangelicals, wrote an article answering "Yes." President John Walvoord of Dallas Theological Seminary wrote an article which answered "No." The fact that there should be such a discussion, and that Dr. Ockenga, a noble, eminent and learned Christian leader would advocate that the church would go through the tribulation shows a startling prevalence of this teaching. With due respect to great and good men who may differ, I think we can show that the teaching is but a fad, that it is based on a misunderstanding of some Scriptures, and the lack of attention to others, and that a pre-tribulation rapture, with Christ coming for His saints before the tribulation, is an absolutely necessary corollary of the Bible teaching that Christ's coming is imminent.

I. A Great Tribulation Is Plainly Foretold in Scripture

Two or three days before the Lord Jesus was betrayed, arrested, tried and crucified, He sat on the Mount of Olives and talked to His disciples about future things. We often call those words of His to the disciples the Olivet Discourse. His talk was principally about the coming destruction of Jerusalem and the things that prefigured Christ's second coming and the end of this age.

1. Why Jesus Spoke to Jews More About Christ's Glorious Return to Reign Than of the Rapture of the Church

Of course those to whom He spoke were Jews. They were primarily interested in the regathering and conversion of Israel, and the restoration of David's kingdom at Jerusalem. So, not a great deal is said in the discourse about the rapture, the time when Jesus will come in the air to take away His own in the first phase of His second coming.

Dr. T. W. Philpott told of one time when on the west coast he sat on the porch of a beautiful resort hotel. Behind him were the mountains; before him the deep blue of the Pacific Ocean. There was a colored man who worked in the yard. Dr. Philpott said to him, "Isn't this the most beautiful place you ever saw?"

"No, sir," the yard man replied, "it is not the most beautiful place I know."

"Then where is the most beautiful place?" asked Dr. Philpott.

"Back in Arkansas," said the good man, "That is the prettiest place I ever saw."

"And what makes Arkansas any more beautiful than California?" asked the preacher.

"All the folks I love live back there, that's what," said the yard man.

As the lonely man on the west coast longed for the place where his loved ones were and disregarded the scenic beauty of California, so it was natural for

the Jews to be more interested in the prophesied restoration of the Jewish nation, the building again of the throne of David at Jerusalem, and the regathering of scattered Jews to their land under the smile of God than in the rapture of the church. That is why the Old Testament prophets,

writing particularly to the Jews, were inspired to tell again and again of that return of Christ in glory to reign, but not often of His catching away His bride into the air, the rapture. So, in dealing with the disciples the Lord Jesus dealt primarily with His return

(Continued on page 2)

Pictures That Preach

By Evangelist Bill Rice, Associate Editor

There are a great many angles to this business of reviewing Gospel films. Do the characters fit their parts? Is the photography good? Is the acting good? The preaching well done? But it seems to me that in the final analysis a film should be judged on its effectiveness. Like a good sermon, a film should bring a definite message that is needful and important and should purpose to bring people to a definite and immediate decision. It may be aimed at the unsaved and strive to bring them to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It may be aimed to encourage Christian people to win souls, to live a separated life, to become a missionary or to support missionary work. It may be biblical teaching on some important truth. Or it may warn of some great evil such as alcohol, or some worldly amusement. But always a Gospel film should have a definite message given in such a way as to move those who hear to definite action.

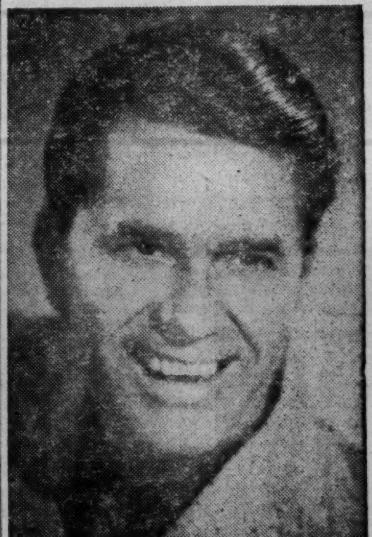
Dr. John A. Broadus, whose book on homiletics has been studied by thousands and thousands of students as a textbook, said he would far rather hear a poor sermon preached in so strong a manner as to get decisions than to hear an excellent sermon preached so poorly that no one was affected by it. As an evangelist, I agree whole-heartedly with this

view. And this same thing applies to Gospel films. I would rather show a film that will get results even though it may be painfully lacking in many technical details than to show a film with the most accomplished actors, the finest photography, and the smoothest continuity but with no punch, no power, no results!

An Example

I have probably shown sound

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Evangelist Bill Rice

Youth's Corner

The Editor Answers
Young People's
Questions

Would it be wrong to go to a
fortuneteller?

Consulting fortunetellers is definitely a sin, clearly forbidden in the Word of God. Deuteronomy 18:9-14 says:

"When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.

"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

"Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

"For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

"Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God.

"For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do."

Fortunetellers pretend to be able to tell the unknown. By consulting the stars or by reading the palm or by reading tea leaves or by consulting evil spirits or by talking with the dead, they claim to find out things that otherwise could not be known. Fortune-tellers, as you see, would include astrologers, Hindu mystics and others. All fortunetelling is forbidden in the Scripture mentioned above, whether it is by "a consulter with familiar spirits" (vs. 11), that is, a spiritualist, or "an observer of times" (vs. 10), that is, one who reads the signs of the time, whether in stars or tea leaves or anything else. Fortune-telling is always of Satan. Usually fortunetelling is a fraud and is done by crooks to get the money of suckers. Sometimes fortunetellers are actually possessed of devils. In such cases they may sometimes tell part of the truth but are never to be relied upon. If any fortuneteller alive could foretell the future, he could become fabulously rich in a little while. If he knew when stock market prices would go up or down or what horse would win a race or what candidate would be elected or what nation would win a war, it would be the easiest thing in

Saints Cannot Go Through . . .

(Continued from page 1)

in glory to regather Israel and set up David's throne at Jerusalem.

2. Christ Plainly Foretold the Great Tribulation Period.

But the Lord Jesus spoke plainly about a great tragic period that would come which He called "great tribulation." Jesus referred to the prophecy of Daniel and said, "When ye therefore shall see

the world for him to make billions. Fortunetellers are hypocrites and those who go to them for information are suckers, and both are wicked sinners in God's sight. Notice in the Scripture quoted above that it was because of these abominations that God drove out the Canaanites from their land and gave it to the children of Israel.

Micah 5:12 says:

"I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand: and thou shalt have no more soothsayers."

God is against witchcrafts and soothsayers as against fortunetelling.

The girl converted in Acts, chapter sixteen, was a soothsayer, that is, a fortuneteller, and she did her work by an evil spirit. When she was converted and the evil spirit was cast out, then her masters "saw that their hope of gain was gone" since she would tell fortunes no more. When young people get converted they ought to leave off such works of evil.

In Exodus 22:18 the Jews were commanded, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." And one of the reasons that God let King Saul die in battle and the throne was taken from his descendants was that he visited the witch of Endor to have his fortune told and learn what was coming in the future. First Chronicles 10:13 and 14 says:

"So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it;

"And enquired not of the Lord: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse."

I would say that to go to a fortuneteller, one is guilty of the following sins:

1. He is a sucker, wasting money and encouraging sham and falsehood.

2. He is disobeying the plain command of the Bible.

3. He puts himself in danger of being misled by evil spirits.

4. He is guilty of neglecting the Lord. Every bit of the guidance we need about the future God will give us. He is the One to whom we should go for comfort, for assurance or for wisdom.

the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place. . . Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains . . . For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matt. 24:15, 16, 21).

Again in Matthew 24:29, 30 He says: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

Consider what Jesus has here told us. There will come on this earth a great time of tribulation. It is foretold in the prophecy of Daniel and all should understand. The Lord Jesus said that this "great tribulation" will be a time of trouble "such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." It will not be an ordinary time of trouble, nor such persecution, war and disaster as marks this whole age. No, it will be a particular period of time shut off from all the rest of human history by the terrible magnitude of suffering endured.

In Mark 13:19, a similar passage, the Lord Jesus said, "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be." And Mark was inspired to add, as did Matthew, Christ's words, "And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved." But for persecution and murder of God's people, for false Christs and false religions, and for catastrophes and plagues in nature, and for bloody wars, this world never has seen nor will see in any other age or time such terror, destruction, persecution, and death as will occur in the period Jesus has foretold, which we call the Great Tribulation.

3. Great Tribulation Is to Be Three and One Half Years, Half of Daniel's 70th Week

The dear Saviour identified this Great Tribulation time as a period which will begin with the "abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet." (See Matt. 24:15-21). The Lord referred particularly to Daniel 9:27. In Daniel, chapter 9, we find that seventy weeks of years were determined ahead of time in which God would deal in a special way with His people Israel. "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy" (Dan. 9:24).

Then the following verse explains that from the "going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem," in the days of Nehemiah and Ezra, "unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, threescore and two weeks . . ." that is, 69 weeks of years, 483 years. I believe that that period of time was fulfilled to the letter and brought the Jews down to the time Christ was offered to them as King and Saviour.

We are told that after the last period mentioned above, the "threescore and two weeks," the Messiah would be cut off and then the Roman people, from the same country as a great future prince, would come and destroy Jerusalem and the temple. We know that this destruction of Jerusalem happened about A. D. 70 under Titus, the Roman general, later the Roman emperor. The destruction by the Romans at that time was only a type and picture of the future destruction of Jerusalem by "the prince that shall come."

The first 69 weeks of the

Good News From India

By Viola Walden, Secretary to the Editor

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country." --Prov. 25:25

Ours is a world-wide ministry! Daily our literature in the form of paper, books and pamphlets, is reaching out to the four corners of the globe. In like manner, fulfilling Ecclesiastes 11:1 which says, "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days," we are constantly receiving encouraging reports of glorious results this literature has had in the hearts and lives of thousands.

Again in Matthew 24:29, 30 He says: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

Today we received a good letter from Rev. A. E. Parvatham of the Scripture Institution of Mettur Dam, Salem District, South India. In 1952 we sent Brother Parvatham and the Institution a check for \$250 to pay for the cost of printing 20,000 copies of the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in the Tamil dialect. This resulted in much blessing, and last month we sent another \$250 check to pay for the printing of a second edition. Now comes this good letter of gratitude and appreciation from Brother Parvatham.

"Your most esteemed letter of June 16 with a check for \$250 reached me today and I am hastening to express my gratitude for your gift for the second edition of your much-used tract, 'What Must I Do to Be Saved?' in Tamil.

"During summer, I attended a convention on a Hill station where I met most of the missionaries of the Tamil field. They all eagerly await the second edition. The month of August is the beginning of the Hindu festival and we need thousands of tracts. So, I am hurrying up the printers to get the printing complete before 18 August.

"Praise God for the blessed ministry of your tract. It is sown far and wide and we get letters from the readers and follow them up. Enclosed you will find a postcard received from a soldier in a hospital. I have given you the translation...

"All our boys and girls pray for you and your ministry. May the dear Lord bless you as well as the donors. Yes, I will remember to let you know the results.

"I am missing The Sword of the Lord since January. Can you not send me a copy?

"With grateful thanks for the privilege of being a distributor of the Lord's word.

"Yours in His service,

(Signed) "A. E. Parvatham"

Along with his letter he enclosed the postcard written by the hospitalized soldier in the native language. Of course, it looks like so many hen tracks in the mud to us, and we are glad that Brother Parvatham translated it into English for us to read. The translation is as follows:

"I was born in a Hindu family and I worshiped Hindu gods till now. But I had no satisfaction. Three months ago I joined the Indian army. After a little wound I was sent to the hospital. A Christian visited the hospital and gave me two booklets. One was

"Way of Life" and the other your tract, 'What Must I Do to Be Saved'."

"Being convinced that I am a sinner, I yielded myself to the Lord Jesus and I have changed my name from Raju Ram to Raj.

"Please pray for me as my family will certainly persecute me for this new faith. But I have put my trust in the Lord.

"With grateful thanks, I am,

(Signed) "Raja"

How we rejoice, as no doubt you do, when we received this wonderful letter telling of the remarkable results from the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" Eternity will have a reward for all those who contributed to the Free Literature Fund for the part they had in making this printing in the Tamil dialect possible. Did you have a part?

Note two definite things from these good letters received from India:

(1) There was the conversion of a precious soul born in a Hindu family as a result of the Gospel booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" A precious soul passed from death unto life, from darkness to light, from the bondage of Satan to the glorious liberty of the Son of God, all because faithful Christians here in America followed the leading of the Holy Spirit and sent contributions to our Free Literature Fund. If it had not been for faithful friends who believed in getting out the Gospel in this manner, we would have not been able to have financed the printing of this edition in the Tamil language and this now beloved Indian brother would still be lost.

(2) The other truth to note is that the missionary brother in India, who is doing such a noble work in reaching people with the Gospel in that heathen country, is apparently dependent upon a gift subscription to THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Note that his subscription expired in January and he has not had THE SWORD since. He requests that a subscription be sent him. Apparently his previous subscription was paid for by some good Christian who was concerned about helping missionaries on the foreign field read such a paper as THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

We want you, of course, to do only what God clearly leads you to do. But many reading this good report from India will feel impressed, I am sure, of the Holy Spirit to send some contribution, large or small, to our Free Literature Fund. Will you do what God wants you to do in this matter? If so, designate your gifts to this particular fund and every penny you send thus designated will go to send the free literature wherever needed. You may rest assured that all money thus designated will be prayerfully distributed for the glory of Jesus Christ and the salvation of souls. Address your letter to the Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois.

of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."

This Man of Sin or Antichrist, the coming prince of the Roman people, "shall confirm the covenant with many for one week." He will make a treaty with Jews in Palestine to have their own nation, sacrifices, temple, and priesthood again, as I understand it. But "in the midst of the week" of seven years he will commit the abomination of desolation which starts the last terrible three and a half years of God's dealing in judgment with the Jewish nation. And that three and a half years which begins with the "abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet" is what Jesus calls "great tribulation." It will be a time of unparalleled suffering, bloodshed, and wickedness

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The SWORD of the LORD

AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

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On the Authority of the Word of God I Will Prove

NELS. F. S. FERRE IS A FALSE PROPHET

By Dr. Harland J. O'Dell
Pastor of Canton Gospel Center
2400 Cleveland Ave., N. W., Canton, Ohio

Born in Sweden, Dr. Ferre was educated at Boston University, Andover-Newton Theological School, Harvard, and the Universities of Uppsala and Lund; following teaching at Andover-Newton Theological School, he became Professor of Philosophical Theology at the Vanderbilt University School of Religion in 1950; has lectured at Texas Christian University, Southern Methodist University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Bethany Biblical Seminary, Garrett Biblical Institute, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Emory University, Boston University; he is author of numerous books.

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privately shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction."—II Pet. 2:1.

Imagine a Minister Suggesting Jesus Could Have Been the Son of a German Soldier

In Mr. Ferre's book, *The Christian Understanding of God*, page 191, he says, "As a matter of fact, the reference in John to the claim by the Jews to the effect that they were not born in adultery could give external credence to a Nazi claim that Jesus was a German. Mary, we remember, was found pregnant before her engagement to mild Joseph. Nazareth was hard by a Roman garrison where the soldiers were German mercenaries. Jesus is also reported throughout a continuous part of the history of art, it is claimed, to have been blond. This is supposedly unnatural for the Mediterranean countries where this same tradition started and was continued. Hence Jesus must have been born the child of a German soldier! After all, the claim develops, such is the experience of many girls near military camps."

He says, "Who can deny that such a conjecture could be true?" Page 192, he says, "We do not say that Jesus was not procreated as a human personality by Joseph or by someone else, nor on the other hand, do we deny that Jesus was conceived without a father. We do not know."

The Bible says in Matthew 1:23—"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel."

He Denies Jesus as Only Saviour

On page 35 of his book, *The Sun and the Umbrella*, he says; "Jesus has consequently become a problem and not a power, a wall and not a door, a substitute for God and not a mediator. To call Jesus God is to substitute an idol for Incarnation; to call him Saviour, in the ultimate sense, is to deny that all salvation comes from God our Saviour and from Him alone in order that God might be all in all."

The Bible says in John 4:42—"For we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world."

He Denies That Jesus Was Sinless

He says, on page 27 in the same book, *The Sun and the Umbrella*: "The writers could not quite deny tensions, fear and problems in the life of Jesus, but it did present him as sinless, and thereby robbed him of his humanity." And on page 30, "The sinlessness of Jesus is an Umbrella which keeps away from us the truth that God longs to become organically incarnate in us."

The Bible says in Hebrews 4:15—"But Jesus was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." I Peter 2:22—"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth."

He Says the Bible May Have Misled Jesus

He says on page 40 in the book, *The Sun and the Umbrella*; "Jesus himself, then, may have been misled as well as helped by the use of Scripture both outside, in his struggle with Jewish orthodoxy, and within, in his own creative imagination and interpretation."

The Bible says in Hebrews 1:2—"God hath in these last days spoken unto us BY his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."

He Denies the Purpose of the Death of Christ

In his book, *The Sun and the Umbrella*, on page 31, he says, "The God of love needs no placating, no offering once for all to satisfy Him." "It constructed, instead, an Umbrella to keep away the bright sunlight of God's love. By doctrines insisting on a blood-thirsty God—that is, that He required Jesus' death before He could allow Himself to love us, so that He even sent His Son basically to die."

The Bible says in John 3:16—"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Hebrews 9:22 says, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

He Questions the Resurrection

According to Mr. Ferre, all of these doctrines are an umbrella shutting out the love of God. In the book, *The Sun and the Umbrella*, on page 32 he says, "So also with the Resurrection! God was not thought intentionally to use death within His creative purpose. It had to be interpreted as man's worst enemy and as the wages of sin." In his book, *The Christian Understanding of God*, he says on page 212: "But are we not using equivocal language about the resurrection when we cannot maintain that we can prove that the human Jesus arose and yet believe that the resurrection is a crucial part of the incarnation?" And on page 213 of the same book, he says: "If he did rise, however, was it not most likely a spiritual rather than a physical resurrection?"

The Bible says in Luke 24:3 and 6, "And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus." "He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee." John 11:25 says, "I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

He Doubts the Second Coming of Christ

He says on page 23 of *The Sun and the Umbrella*: "The doctrine of the Second Coming became, perhaps, the darkest of all the Umbrellas. It completely shuts out the living God, embracing and reconciling all men with His eternal time and power. Instead, the doctrine of the Second Coming denied the concept, as Jesus stated it, of God's being love, for all mankind would be extinguished or tormented forever except the few who would escape punishment through faith in the merits of Jesus. It seems doubtful that Jesus ever taught such a doctrine."

Jesus said in John 14:3—"And

Please Mention
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if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also."

He Says the New Testament Is Not Reliable

On page 41 of *The Sun and the Umbrella*, he says: "The material is so plentiful and generally seems so contrived, that the strongest evidence against the reliability of the New Testament as a historic record, particularly concerning the life of Jesus, gathers precisely at this point."

The Bible says in II Timothy 3:16—"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

* * *

You ask the question, "Why are these men in the ministry and what do they expect to accomplish?" Permit me to answer you with scripture.

1—They are unsaved servants of Satan and are working out his plan for this world.

II Thessalonians 2:9 and 10 says, "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

II Corinthians 11:13-15 says, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

2—There is personal gain.

Jude 16 says, "These are murderers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage."

II Peter 2:3 says, "And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."

On Communism

We believe communism to be the political system of Satan. Its very method of conquer and rule is built from "lies," "murder," "stealing" and "immorality."

It's interesting to note whenever a minister turns from the Gospel of Christ, he warms up to communist ideology. These men become Satan's chief agents to spearhead and pave the way for his power. They serve as a conditioner for the minds of the masses.

Mr. Ferre says on page 66 in his book *Return to Christianity*: "The social patterns of private profit are painfully destructive of the very basic ideals of a Christian society and must give way to a new social system." Then on page 67 of the same book he says: "History shows plainly that the world is spiraling toward socialization." This is with his approval.

Russia Referred to in Glowing Terms

In the *Return to Christianity* on page 69, he says: "Whatever may or may not happen to Russia after this, we have all seen how prodigiously educable man is and how effective social patterns can be even within a short period of time." And on page 71 of the same book he says, "The backwardness of some regions of the world is no excuse for continued domination and exploitation. Russia in one generation became a highly literate nation."

He Advocates the Whole World Be Under Centralized Control

On page 69 of the *Return to Christianity* he says, "The problem boils down to our need for an adequate international organization based on adequate international authority over all common judicial, military and economic functions."

He Denounces Competition

In the book, *Return to Christianity* on page 70, he says, "The enormous benefits of co-opera-

tion, in terms of the doing away with man's greatest social burden, our present divisive and excessive militarism, and the production instead almost entirely of positive economic goods, would make odious as a nightmare the old system of competition, conflict, and continuous destruction."

The Editor Adds a Comment

Above we have reproduced a four-page folder by Dr. Harlan J. O'Dell, 2400 Cleveland Avenue, N.W., Canton, Ohio. Extra copies of this article may be had in pamphlet form by writing Dr. O'Dell. We urge those who ask for extra copies to send along a gift, at least 1c a copy. And do not leave Pastor O'Dell to pay the expenses alone.

Dr. Nels F. S. Ferre denies every fundamental of the Christian faith, and has done so in print, repeatedly. The great Methodist camp meeting at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, last summer cancelled his engagement there because of vigorous protest on the part of Methodist laymen, led by Dr. Walter A. White, of 17 Third Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Ferre gave the Gay Lectures at Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, in 1947. Some of his books are suggested and required reading for ministerial students in the seminary now, and Dr. Ferre is openly defended now by some of the faculty and administration. Last June he was a regular speaker at Meredith Baptist College for women at Raleigh, North Carolina.

Dr. Ferre is an infidel in the historic, dictionary definition of the term. That is, he denies the essential doctrines of the Christian faith and the divine inspiration of the Bible.

Is Dr. Nels F. S. Ferre saved? The Scripture answers, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (II John 9). One may be wrong on minor doctrines and be a Christian. But for one to deny the essential deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His blood atonement, and His resurrection from the dead means that he does not abide in the doctrine of Christ and that he "hath not God."

What should Christians do in relation to false teachers like Dr. Ferre? The answer of the Scripture is, "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." (II John 10, 11). We are not to receive him in our houses, not to call him a fellow Christian, and not to bid him Godspeed. Certainly we are not to support him with money.

Again the Scripture says, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers . . . Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (II Cor. 6:14-18).

It is a sin for a Christian to yoke up with an unbeliever, whether in denominations or otherwise. No Christian should give a dime for the support of an infidel or for institutions that push that infidelity.

Again, what does the Scripture say about such false prophets?

Paul answered by divine inspiration, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ" (Gal. 1:8, 9).

The Gospel Paul preached is given us in I Corinthians 15:3, 4: "... how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

Methodist laymen by threatening to cut off support stopped this infidel from preaching at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, the great Methodist camp meeting. By Christians withdrawing support

from Southern Baptist Seminary, from Meredith College, and from any other organization or program which caters to infidels and uses them, Christians of America can largely bring to a halt and stop completely the inroads of modernism among sound denominations.

THERE IS NO WAY TO STOP MODERNISM WHILE WE SUPPORT IT WITH MONEY! Methodist bishops, Baptist state secretaries and leaders all can understand it when common Christian people set out to follow Christ and the Bible **WITH THEIR MONEY** as well as with their prayers and testimonies. Anybody who talks for Christ and the Bible and then with his money supports infidels like Nels Ferre and supports institutions which teach their books and pay for their lectures, is acting a hypocrite and will have to give an account to God for supporting infidelity. Denominational idolatry will not be an acceptable excuse before God when he is required to stand at the judgment seat of Christ and give an account of why he used his money to support infidels and to break down the faith of common Christians in the Word of God.

We congratulate Dr. Walter A. White, Methodist layman of Atlanta, for his great work in stirring up Methodists to have Dr. Ferre's engagement at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, cancelled. We hope to give a detailed account of that matter soon.

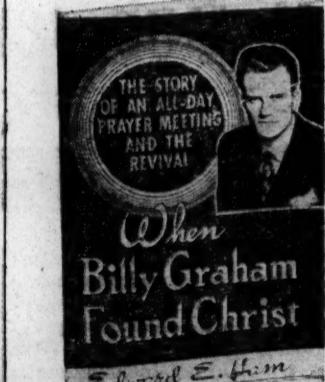
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Sanctified Backbone

By Rev. S. E. Henderson
Methodist Minister, Box 369, Talihina, Oklahoma

"And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."—Gen. 18:17-19.

Abraham's wife, Sarah, was going to have a child. The Lord in His covenant with Abraham told him his descendants would be as many as the stars in those clear Syrian skies. This good man and his wife had waited for children till the time had passed when women normally have children. The barrenness of old age came and hope was all but gone. Then, in Sarah's ninetieth year, an angel spoke to the patriarch saying: "Sarah thy wife shall have a son."

There are few experiences that come to men more thrilling than the knowledge that the first baby is on the way. To some men it is like wine in the veins.

Jeff Johnson was a hillbilly farmer back in Missouri. He learned his wife Immer was going to have a baby. Jeff was quite thrilled. A day or so later his wife came on Jeff with his head in the rain barrel, muttering "Daddy! Daddy!" His spouse asked why he was doing that. He said, "I just wanted to hear how it sounds."

It does something to a couple when they learn the first heir is on the way. A nice couple lived in one of my charges. They wanted a child, but the child did not come. They talked with me in regard to it, and asked what I thought about adopting a child. I suggested they consult their family physician first. Two months later I visited them I detected a new joy in their hearts as soon as I entered their home. The young husband, (he was about thirty-five) said:

"Reverend Henderson, we have good news. A baby is coming to live with us."

I said, "Have you thanked God for this blessing?" He affirmed that he certainly had. Then he began to talk about the kind of home they should have. He and his wife saw a home where love was

the law and where mama and papa were dedicated to high ideals.

"Yes," said the mother-to-be, "we have talked it over. We feel we are called to as holy a mission as yours, sir."

I said, "You are entirely right. It is a holy mission. You pray about it, and be prepared for it."

I. God Wants Good Fathers

There are fathers, and then there are just children-getters without conscience. The richest treasure any nation can ever have is good Christian fathers. What constitutes a good dad anyway? A good father will provide for his family. He may not provide much, but he will provide the best he can. He will protect the family with all the bravery of a soldier on guard. He will pull his portion of the load. He certainly will not impose on his teammate.

Moses Jackson was in trouble with the court about stealing chickens. The judge read the charges. Then he said,

"Moses, what is your means of support?"

Moses looked back toward the rear of the courtroom and said, "Liza, stand up!"

Like the old street corner philosopher said: "It looks like one woman ought to support one man."

A family, to live well, ought to have economic stability. It has been my observation that an insecure family is not a good church family, and we feel sure, not as much help to the community and state as if they had an income sufficient to provide a margin above the actual needs.

A drinker cannot qualify. This liquor business is fiendishly cruel. It is appalling that this nation of ours spends twice as much for booze as for education, three times as much for the stuff that eats out the brain as for religion.

This country spent nine billion dollars last year on booze. Men drinking up their wages, and wife and babies needing food, medicine, and clothes. God help the children with a drunken father who comes home and terrorizes the whole family. A sensible woman will no more marry a drunkard than she would go into a cage with a boa constrictor!

We referred to fathers as good providers. That ought to be their aim. Providing for creature needs, food, clothes, houses, is important. Yet it isn't enough. Man doesn't live by bread alone. He is not just an intestine. Children have souls. They are made for God and are not happy until they rest in Him. Abraham had made provisions for that. The record mentions his material prosperity (Gen. 13:2). We have seen some rich men's sons who made monkeys of themselves. And daughters—we confess we have often wanted to spank Barbara Hutton. Rich men's sons are at great disadvantage. A boy turned loose with an automobile and a checkbook needs help and love and a friend. It is clear that the early years of your child's life must be used to give that bent to Christianity and goodness which will endure throughout the dangerous period of adolescence when children want to cut loose from dad and paddle their own canoe. The greatest heritage a father can leave a son is a good name.

Good name, my lord, in men and women is

The immediate jewel of their souls.

Who steals my purse steals trash.

'Tis something, nothing; 'twas mine, 'tis his.

But he that filches from me my good name

Robs me of that which not enriches him

But makes me poor indeed.

Some men went to Robert E. Lee after the Civil War and offered him \$50,000 to use his name to promote a gambling proposition. Lee told them the name of Lee was not for sale.

A good father will have a keen sense of spiritual values. He will labor to get the inheritance incorruptible that is reserved in Heaven, and fadeth not away. Sound Christian character is the greatest wealth of all. There are more ministers' children listed in *Who's Who* than from any other calling or profession. Think of the Wesley home in Epworth, England, in the 18th century. Samuel Wesley was hard put to feed fifteen growing children. Think of what that home did for the world!

II. Priests of Religion

The world needs fathers who will be priests of religion and preside at prayers. The golden age of American family life was back in the pioneer times. That was the Presbyterian age, when each family had a large, heavy Bible. If we could only bring it back! The family altar means family love. It is the family seeking the great enduring things.

I had a banker friend who had grown careless. He was a money-maker. His wife's hands glittered with diamonds. He lived in the biggest house in that town. A sweet little girl had come to his home. She was his whole life. One night he went to revival meeting. The revivalist pleaded with parents for a consecration of their lives for their children's sake. My banker friend went forward for prayer. Something happened that changed his life. He went home that night and awoke his wife and little girl. "Things must be different in this house," he said. He got a Bible and read, then kneeled and the three of them prayed.

There are a great many men who should lead their families in religion. Robert Burns, the ploughboy poet of Ayrshire, immortalized Scottish piety at its noblest with a great poem—"Cotter's Saturday Night." He pictured a hard-handed old Scottish peasant at prayers. In loving terms Burns pictures the old peasant, great in his simple faith. He had done a hard day's work in the field and as chill night crept over the hills and moors of bonny Scotland he and his family partook of their frugal supper. The poet sketches it as he

had been used to seeing Scottish religious life:

The cheerful supper done, wi' serious faces

They round the ingle form a circle wide;

The sire turns o'er with patriarchal grace

The big ha' Bible, ance his father's pride:

His bonnet reverently is laid aside, His lyart haffets wearing thin and bare;

Those strains that once in zion did sweetly glide

He wails a portion with judicious care:

And "Let us worship God" he said with solemn air.

III. Patterns of Conduct

We need fathers who will go before their children, go the right direction and do the right things. It takes a brave man to dare to be in the right with two or three. The commandment adjures the child to "honour thy father and thy mother." It lays a heavy hand on us fathers. It means that there should be something about us that the child can honour.

Theodore Roosevelt was an ideal father. How lovingly his sons spoke of him! They called him "The Old Lion!" He was a faithful attendant at the Little Dutch Reformed Church in Washington all through his presidency. He often exhorted the members to be regular in attendance. Once he said: "The family should be at church on the Sabbath mornings. They will hear the Divine Book read. They will meet their friends when they are at their best. They may not always hear a good sermon, but they will hear a sermon by a good man."

In these days there is much talk about "moral re-armament." I like that phrase. Our nation is strong only as far as it stands aligned with God's moral order. "God is our refuge and strength." Our strength doesn't lie in H-bombs, in planes, in tanks, nor guided missiles. It is in our spiritual ideals that we have strength. Throughout our land there are Sunday Schools and churches for your convenience. Here is your chance to help in the great task of instilling ideals into children and youth. The father who goes to the golf course on Sunday morning is leading in the wrong direction. The father who catches up with his book-work during the eleven o'clock hour on Sundays, the father that mows the lawns, prunes his hedge, reads newspapers, while his empty pew is witnessing to his absence from God's house, is definitely a bad influence, and squarely on the Devil's side. We are quite familiar with the old excuse, "The Sabbath was made for man." Therefore it is justifiable for me to go down to the lakeside and fish. Why shouldn't I use Sundays for pleasure, and drive to some playground, or park and spend the day?" You surely know that half of the children of America are not in any Church School, and that your church is fighting a battle against immorality, and that you are crippling it, and obstructing its work.

IV. Evangelize Children

A good father will evangelize his children. The Lord said of Abraham's children "they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment" (Gen. 18:19). Father and mother are the best evangelists. The father that walks before his children will have the greatest thrill of his life when he sees his children taking the vows of the church.

I was baptizing a boy one day. I said, "Who do you want to come up here and stand by you?"

He said, "I want my Dad."

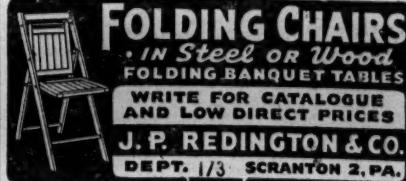
His dad was a garage mechanic. The boy and his dad had been close pals since he was a small toddler. The man stood near the altar and wiped tears from his eyes with hard, rough hands. Many a father cherishes memories when a little tot followed him everywhere. The companionship of children is more precious than gold of Ophir. Your boy may be in Korea or some other far place of the world. You want to see him, but have to be content with a look at his photograph. He is a man now, but memory transports you back to days gone. You recall when he used to climb on your

knee. He trusted you. His faith evoked the good side of your nature. Through you, he came to get some understanding of God. Your love was real. The God you served will make him want that God, too.

V. Stern in Discipline

A good father will have a stern element, too. This is a day when there is much laxity and when children are inclined to run the home. God said He knew Abraham

(Continued on page 6)



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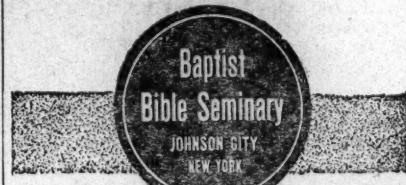
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REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

We are grateful for a fine letter from **EVANGELIST BUCKNER FANNING**, P. O. Box 222, Dallas, Texas, in which he told of a good revival at Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, where Dr. Lory Hildreth is pastor. During the eight-day meeting there were 98 additions to the church, he reports, with a number of young people surrendering for special service, and many rededications.

Dr. W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, says: "One of the most gifted evangelists of our generation is Buckner Fanning. Recently he led us in a revival and God greatly blessed his efforts. The thirst of Heaven is in his soul and the eloquence of angels is on his lips." Other commendations were likewise as enthusiastic.

Brother Fanning is a new subscriber to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, and "I want you to know how much I have enjoyed it," he says. Pray for his ministry. God bless him mightily.

EVANGELIST JIMMY O'QUINN of P. O. Box 1757, Texarkana, Texas, led Third Street Baptist Church, Waco, Texas, in a fine revival September 7-18. The pastor, Rev. Doyle Darwin, wrote a fine word about the revival and the evangelist, and he reports 32 additions to the church (20 came for baptism and 12 by letter). Other decisions were made in many hearts. "We thank God over and over again for Brother O'Quinn's coming to be with us. We need more preachers who will fight sin as he does. He is a wonderful evangelist to work with; some day we hope to have him back," the pastor writes.

A fine letter has been received by the editor from **EVANGELIST EDDIE WAGNER** (7 Quillen Ave., N. Little Rock, Arkansas), author of the recently-published sermon, "Davy-Davy Crockett." When he wrote September 16, he was at Emery Park Baptist Church, Tucson, Arizona, where Rev. Don Gagnon is pastor, with the revival just beginning. The two meetings prior to this one were in the Tucson area also—Mission Park Baptist Church of Tucson, Rev. Al Spive, pastor—a mission work—September 11-18, and First Baptist Church of Benson, Arizona, September 18-25. Rev. Basil Holmes is pastor at Benson, having been there only two months. Brother Wagner reports a number saved at the last place, including one Catholic woman. No doubt we will have reports for readers directly from the pastors.

We are so glad the Lord continues to bless our brother, who was for a long period on the Sword Staff of Evangelists. He is a fine and loyal friend to this editor and THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

EVANGELIST WALT HANDFORD, Wheaton, Illinois, just closed a blessed meeting with the Sparlingville Baptist Church of Port Huron, Michigan. The pastor, Rev. Jack Oliver, wrote the editor, "During the meetings there were 12 saved. One was a Lutheran man—a real trophy of God's grace and a wonderful answer to many prayers. We also had a couple in their 50's who are rejoicing in the Lord and witnessing for Him. We also had an Indian lady saved and are hoping to be able to reach the rest of that family for Christ. There were 13 rededications to the Lord by backsliders which we feel will be a real blessing to our church and community. One young father surrendered his life for service."

The pastor, who had been working as a butcher during the week as a means of livelihood, felt definitely led of God to quit his job and step out by faith full-time as pastor of the church as a result of one of the Evangelist's sermons on trusting the Lord.

Rev. Oliver said he could "certainly highly recommend him (E-

vangelist Handford) to anyone for service anywhere. He is a very good preacher and longs to see souls saved."

The pastor of Mt. Zion Bible Baptist Church near Tyler, Texas, Rev. Dan Reece, reports a good revival led by **EVANGELIST G. P. COMER**, Box 5889, Dallas 22, Texas. He says, "There were 19 unchurched and lost saved and added to the church, 60 rededications... 9 young people surrendered for special work and 11 family altars were begun in the homes." Plans are being made for Evangelist Comer to return for 30 days next summer.

EVANGELIST PETE RIGGS recently conducted a city-wide tent revival at Olney, Illinois, under the sponsorship of the Olney Ministerial Association. Local newspaper coverage was excellent and daily write-ups were printed. Starting with 1,000 present on the opening night, the meeting saw an estimated 18,000 people in attendance during the two weeks, including 2,300 the closing night, the greatest religious crowd in Olney history. Over 300 decisions were reported during the meeting.

Converted opera singer, Bill Carle, presented solos nightly and Bill Weston directed the 80-voice choir and the congregational singing.

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST JOE B. RICE** was in a revival campaign in Olamon, Maine, recently. Rev. Bob Dunlop of Passadumkeag, Maine, is trying to establish a church there, and Brother Joe dropped by on his way home from New Brunswick to help. There were seven conversions while Brother Joe was there. The attendance was very small, but there seems to be real hope of a fine soul-winning church in this Maine community under the leadership of Pastor Dunlop.

307 Sundays!

By Evangelist Bill Rice

While in a revival campaign in Prichard, Alabama, the team was invited to a lovely country home for a dinner spread in a grove of beautiful trees on the side lawn of a lovely home. Mr. and Mrs. Rambo, their children and grandchildren, had spread a lovely banquet for us. It was a lovely occasion, not only because of the splendid foods that were spread in such deliciousness and abundance, but because of the happy fellowship the large group so obviously enjoyed. After the meal, Grandfather Rambo asked Cathy and me and Ellis Zehr to walk to the house with him. We went and he proudly showed us the modest but lovely home. He then showed us pictures of his absent son, a colonel in the Air Force. After telling us how wonderful the absent members of the family were, he brought out a calendar. We noticed that the Sundays on the calendar were numbered—301, 302, 303, etc., up to 307. The 307, he explained, was the previous Sunday and that was how many Sundays he had attended Sunday School and church without missing.

He explained that he had lived a life of sin. He had left God out of his life. He was so far from God that his closest friends were greatly disturbed and had prayed much for him.

Then one Friday night he went to the Wilson Avenue Baptist Church to see a gospel film. He was greatly moved and stirred as he saw the gospel message unfold, but he made no decision for Christ. The following Sunday night he again went to church and the very same film was shown again! This time, when the invitation was given, he turned to a son-in-law who stood by and said, "Let's go



One fourth of the city's population gathered at the tent for the closing service of Dr. Pete Rigg's campaign in Olney, Illinois. An estimated 1,300 outside the tent cannot be seen. (See write-up of campaign.)

The Pharisee and the Publican

(Continued from page 1)

thing for the substance; just give them the husk, and they don't care for the wheat.

We read that this man stood and prayed "with himself." That is a queer way to pray. He stood up there and stretched himself, and said, "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are;" and this, too, while the angels in Heaven were veiling their faces, and crying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!" But this man is full of himself. He goes on to tell God all about his goodness, as if God didn't know him better than he knew himself. Just listen to him. "I fast twice in the week." His church only told him to fast once, so, you see, he is laying God under obligation to him by fasting twice as much as is necessary. "I give tithes of all that I possess." Oh yes, he thought a great deal of himself for that! Just as some people think a great deal of themselves for their gifts to the cause of religion in these days. I have no doubt there are some people who say, "Oh yes, I will give something toward that Tabernacle and those meetings. They are very good things for common people, but then, of course, they are not of any use to me."

"Oh, yes, I will give you fifty dollars for your church if you will be sure to put my name in the newspapers."

Many a man gives his money patronizingly, and thinks he is doing something for God; but God doesn't know any thing about such gifts; He never writes down any such credits in the book of life.

There is another curious thing about this man's prayer. There isn't any confession of sin in it, because the man doesn't think he has any sins to confess. Still more, the man doesn't ask for any thing; he is so well satisfied with himself that he is wholly taken up talking to the Lord about his righteousness. He has everything he wants.

It seems to me that was a very prayerless prayer. He said a prayer, but he didn't pray any.

Now take a good look at this Pharisee, and see who he is like. His prayer has thirty-four words in it, and there are nine great capital I's. If he prayed as long

to the altar and get right with God." And he went!

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Now take a look at the other man. His prayer is short; there (Continued on page 7)

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(Continued from page 4)

would command his children after him. Our pioneer fathers and mothers showed a strength of will. They possessed a firmness that this generation of parents need to have.

Not long ago I was visiting at a home where the 13-year-old daughter wanted to take the family car and go somewhere with her two companions. Her father said, "No!" She made a face, and jumped in the car and drove away. It is a terrific day for children to govern their parents.

A motorist picked up a lad on the highway. The boy was crying. The motorist asked what was wrong. The boy said: "Home is not the same any more. Dad and Mom won't mind me. I'm leaving."

Parents should be strong. I can't find any other word. In my state juvenile delinquency is at high flood. In a high school in a city of ten thousand population in western Oklahoma the patrons were stunned when they learned

there were seventeen girls who were going to be mothers. We need parents who know where their children are and what they are doing.

One day in midsummer I went fishing at Lake Lugert. It was a hot day and I had no water to drink but lake water. So I went over to what is known as Harry's place. It is in reality a honky-tonk, but I was thirsty and thought I would get a bottle of pop. I walked up to the side of the house where there was a window that customers used to call for sandwiches, or drinks. The keeper went with me. Inside the radio was playing dance music. About sixty young people were in there doing a dance. I asked the keeper of the lake where they were from. He said, "From towns round about here. Some of 'em live as much as 75 miles away."

Somebody was failing as a dad. I admire the spirit of a certain railroad president. There was to be a meeting of the stockholders, and he had done much work to prepare for it. The night that he was to leave home for the meeting his daughter wanted to go to a preview of a show in a city some fifty miles away. He had old-fashioned ideas, and didn't believe in girls going about in automobiles at midnight without chaperonage. Every nice girl needs a chaperon till she gets a chap of her own! Her mother had no desire to go to a midnight show with her. The father pleaded with her to cancel the date. She argued and contended she was going anyway. Then her dad put his foot down. He forbade her going. He called off his meeting, by telegraph, saying he had such important business that he wouldn't be able to come. He stayed at home with his daughter and worked with her through the whole evening. Being a dad is bigger business than being a railroad president.

The book is already being printed. This is written October 5. The type has already been set, and we are reading proof on it. Before you receive this paper, we trust that the presses will have already done their beautiful work, and that the books will be going to the bindery. We cannot promise that the books will be ready before November 10, but they may be ready a week before that. And the early birds who send in their orders now will get the books without delay.

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Must Christ be shut out of Christmas? On the day that is meant to celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, must we give gifts that do not honor Him, and waste the time in revelry and folly? Surely, if there is ever

(Continued on page 7)

Sanctified Backbone

(Continued from page 4)

were going to be mothers. We need parents who know where their children are and what they are doing.

One day in midsummer I went fishing at Lake Lugert. It was a hot day and I had no water to drink but lake water. So I went over to what is known as Harry's place. It is in reality a honky-tonk, but I was thirsty and thought I would get a bottle of pop. I walked up to the side of the house where there was a window that customers used to call for sandwiches, or drinks. The keeper went with me. Inside the radio was playing dance music. About sixty young people were in there doing a dance. I asked the keeper of the lake where they were from. He said, "From towns round about here. Some of 'em live as much as 75 miles away."

Somebody was failing as a dad. I admire the spirit of a certain railroad president. There was to be a meeting of the stockholders, and he had done much work to prepare for it. The night that he was to leave home for the meeting his daughter wanted to go to a preview of a show in a city some fifty miles away. He had old-fashioned ideas, and didn't believe in girls going about in automobiles at midnight without chaperonage. Every nice girl needs a chaperon till she gets a chap of her own! Her mother had no desire to go to a midnight show with her. The father pleaded with her to cancel the date. She argued and contended she was going anyway. Then her dad put his foot down. He forbade her going. He called off his meeting, by telegraph, saying he had such important business that he wouldn't be able to come. He stayed at home with his daughter and worked with her through the whole evening. Being a dad is bigger business than being a railroad president.

I know of a college president who had a "stepper" for a son. The boy turned his father's automobile upside down and wrecked it. After the father's fright was over, and he learned the boy wasn't hurt, he took him home, locked the door and gave him a whipping. The two of them had a regular fist fight. There has been a lot of bosh taught about democracy in the home, the child getting his rights. We agree that the child should get all right privileges, but the child must learn that others have rights. Democracy has laws. A democracy isn't a bedlam without any order. The border of liberty is where our rights end, and our neighbors' rights begin.

Fathers need an element of sternness. Mr. Dooley said: "There is something called Or-r-r-iginal Sin. Father Timmons took some of it outer me wid holy wa-ther when I was eight days old, and what Father Timmons didn't take out my father took out wid a razor str-r-r-ap!" Fathers may need to pat their children on the back-low down.

A well-ordered home contributes to the security of our social order. A home must have foundations. No other foundation can be laid than that which is laid, Christ Jesus.

Men, let's dedicate ourselves to the high calling of fatherhood. You will live again in the children. Your influence will go on down through history, spreading like a river, wider and ever wider for God and good. Your heart tells you you should. The Bible tells you you should. God is telling you you should. There are men who live for wealth; there are men who live for position, and power; there are men who live for prestige. How much better to live for the ideal of Christian fatherhood! It will give large returns and invest you with the royal robes of character. Let us give up the sins that hinder us and from this moment set our faces to do His will in the holy duties of a home. Our youth are going the way of sin and destruction. Our land is imperiled by the delinquency of this age? You fathers hold the destiny of the race in your hands. Choose this day, whom ye will serve. If Baal be god, serve Baal. If God be God, then serve God.

Is It Possible?

Now in regard to keeping ourselves pure, we must realize the secret of the power by which we can be kept pure. I wonder if you are thinking, "Is it possible to really live a victorious life?" You do not really think that you can live a victorious life. Remember, it is not a sin to be tempted. What a great discovery that was to me! I thought that if I was to live a victorious Christian life, I would have to live above temptation. God's Word tells us that Jesus Christ was tempted, yet He was without sin.

Temptation comes to you, it may be through the eye gate, the ear gate, or in some other way, but when it comes it registers as a thought. When that thought comes, do not cling to it, do not cherish it. As has been said, you cannot stop birds flying over your head, but you do not need to let them build nests in your hair. You cannot keep that thought of temptation from entering your mind, but you do not need to give place to it. Deal with it through the blood of Jesus Christ.

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I Love Christmas

(Continued from page 6)

a time when Christians should be good Christians, it is at Christmas time. If there is ever a time when people's hearts are tender and open to Gospel truth and help, it is at Christmas. If there is ever a time to make a gift that will honor the Lord, that will help people to live right for the whole new year, that will win souls, it is at Christmas time. We beg you to send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to as many of your friends and relatives this year as possible. Hurry! Make out your list! For every three one-year subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, we will send a free copy of the lovely new Christmas book called *I Love Christmas*. Send \$5 for each three yearly subscriptions in the United States and to the armed services. Send \$6.50 for three yearly subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD to go to Canada and foreign countries. (We must pay extra postage, about 50c a year.)

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The Pharisee and the Publican

(Continued from page 6)

isn't a capital "I" in it. "God be merciful to"—some other sinner? "God be merciful to"—that church member who has wronged me? "God be merciful to"—that hypocrite over there? No, "God be merciful to ME, a sinner!" He wouldn't so much as lift up his eyes to Heaven, but that didn't hinder his lifting up his heart to God. He smites his breast, and says he is a sinner. Mr. Spurgeon says that the publican was the soundest theologian of the two. He was like David, who prayed, "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness . . . Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity." If God washes our iniquities the Devil cannot find one spot in us.

A great many people are trying to wash away their own iniquities, but it never does any good. Take the case of Elijah. He was in great trouble there under the juniper tree, and the Lord comes to him, and says, "Elijah, what's the matter?" "Oh," says he, "I have been very jealous for Thy name; now everything is going wrong, and I wish I might die." Now you can see he was not so jealous for his God's name as he was for his own name, for, when the Lord asks him what is the matter, he goes right to talking about himself. Ah, my friends, what we want is to get these capital "I's" out of the way. We have been praying that God will search us and try us and see if there be any wicked way in us. Now let us be honest. Are we willing to know the sin that is in us, and when God shows it to us are we ready to put it away? These are solemn times. We begin to see the secret things in our hearts. The Holy Spirit reveals them, and we begin to have a conscience on matters that were out of sight before.

You remember the temple of Jerusalem. There was the outer court, the court of the Gentiles. Any one might go there, but if he wished to go further he must go as one of God's people. There were sacrifices and sin-offerings to be made, and purifyings with

the power of the Holy Spirit.

We read that our God is a consuming fire. This day is the anniversary of the great fire. Five years ago tonight the fire swept across the river at the place where this Tabernacle stands, and burned up the wood and the stone, and melted the iron of these rows of great buildings—burned everything that could be burned. So let the fire of God sweep across our souls and burn up all the dross of our natures and cleanse us from all our sins!

Moody Invited to Saloon Opening

In one of our meetings a man got up to speak whom I didn't know at first. When I lived here he used to be a rumseller, but he afterward broke up his business and went to the mountains and I lost track of him. He and his partners opened a grand billiard hall, and, of course, there was a bar in it. It was one of the most magnificent billiard halls on the West Side, all elegantly gilded and frescoed. When they got ready to open it they sent me an invitation to be present. So the day before they opened I went around and saw them, and asked them if they were willing to allow me to bring a friend with me. They inquired who it was. I told them it was the Friend who always went with me everywhere. Then they began to mistrust me, and tried to make me tell who my Friend was, and I told them it was the Lord; and

that if I saw any thing wrong on that occasion I should want to speak to Him of it.

"See here now, Moody," said they, "we ain't going to have any praying."

"But," said I, "you gave me an invitation to your opening, and I am coming, and am going to bring my Friend with me."

"But we don't want you to come now, anyhow."

"Ah! but I am coming," said I.

Well, after I found we couldn't agree upon it, I said, "I'll tell you what I'll do. We will compromise this matter, if you will kneel down here now while I pray for both of you." So I kneeled down, with a rumseller on each side of me, and prayed for them. It turned out that one of them had a praying mother, and the prayer touched his heart. I asked God to bless the souls of these men, and to spoil their business; and in a few months, sure enough, their business failed, and one of these men went away to the Rocky Mountains.

When he came back he stood up in that meeting and gave me an account of himself something like this. Life had become a burden to him out there in the mountains. He had lost all his money, and made up his mind to kill himself. With this terrible thought

in view he went to a lonely place in the mountains, took out his knife, and was just going to plunge it into his heart, when he heard a voice—it seemed to him it was the voice of his dead mother—saying to him over again the words which he had heard her say when she was dying, "John, if ever you get into trouble, pray to God."

The knife dropped from his hand. He didn't know how to pray, but this publican's prayer came into his head: so he kneeled there upon the ground, with his heart broken over his sin and sorrow, and cried out in the bitterness of his soul, "God be merciful to me a sinner!"

The Lord heard his prayer, and blessed him. Just the moment he cried for mercy he got it.

What a glorious thing it would be if every soul here would lift up this publican's prayer, "God be merciful to me a sinner!"

— THE END —

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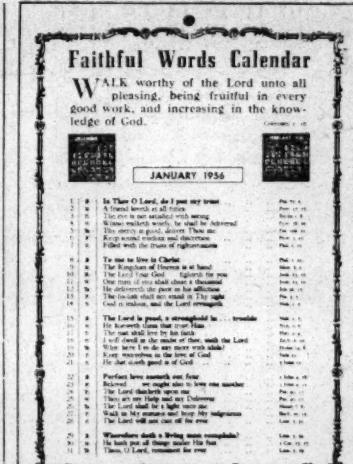
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Moody Invited to Saloon Opening

In one of our meetings a man got up to speak whom I didn't know at first. When I lived here he used to be a rumseller, but he afterward broke up his business and went to the mountains and I lost track of him. He and his partners opened a grand billiard hall, and, of course, there was a bar in it. It was one of the most magnificent billiard halls on the West Side, all elegantly gilded and frescoed. When they got ready to open it they sent me an invitation to be present. So the day before they opened I went around and saw them, and asked them if they were willing to allow me to bring a friend with me. They inquired who it was. I told them it was the Friend who always went with me everywhere. Then they began to mistrust me, and tried to make me tell who my Friend was, and I told them it was the Lord; and



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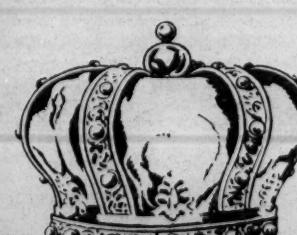
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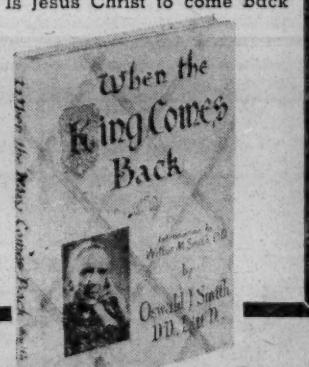
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clearly and emphatically gives answers to such questions as "Will there ever come a time when there will be no more war and bloodshed, no more sin or crime, no poverty or sickness?" "Are we to spiritualize the great prophecies of God's Word, or are they to be literally fulfilled?" "Will there be a millennium?" "Is Jesus Christ to come back to reign?"

Saints Cannot Go Through . . .

(Continued from page 2)

such as the world never saw before with a great prince or Man of Sin, a dictator, an Antichrist who will never see after that time, and will never see after that time, Sin, a dictator, an Antichrist who will oppress the people Israel. In tribulation is clearly connected Daniel 7:8 the Scripture speaks

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of a little horn who arose (in Daniel's vision) among the ten horns representing the nations which came from the Roman Empire. And we are told 'he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time' (Dan. 7:25). God's people, Israel, will be given into his hand three and a half times or years, says the Scripture. The Man of Sin "shall wear out the saints of the most High" during that Great Tribulation.

Daniel speaks further of this tribulation time in Daniel 12:1 as follows:

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."

What a dreadful time of trouble!

4. Many Scriptures Discuss This Great Period of Trouble

To impress upon you how often and clearly this period of Great Tribulation is mentioned in the Bible, let me give a brief note from the Scofield Reference Bible. There is a note concerning Daniel 12:2 as follows:

"The 'time of the end' in Daniel. The expression, or its equivalent, 'in the end,' occurs, Dan. 8:17-19; 9:26; 11:35, 40, 45; 12:4, 6, 9. Summary: (1) The time of the end in Daniel begins with the violation by 'the prince that shall come' (i.e. 'little horn,' 'man of sin,' 'Beast') of his covenant with the Jews for the restoration of the temple and sacrifice (Dan. 9:27), and his presentation of himself as God (Dan. 9:27; 11:36-38; Matt. 24:15; II Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:4-6), and ends with his destruction by the appearing of the Lord in glory (II Thess. 2:8; Rev. 19:19, 20). (2) The duration of the 'time of the end' is three and one half years, coinciding with the last half of the seventieth week of Daniel (Dan. 7:25; 12:7; Rev. 13:5). (3) This 'time of the end' is the 'time of Jacob's trouble' (Jer.

30:7); 'a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation' (Dan. 12:1); 'great tribulation such as was not from the beginning of the world . . . nor ever shall be' (Matt. 24:21). The N.T., especially the Book of the Revelation, adds many details."

The above quotation gives many references which show that the Great Tribulation time which will especially affect Daniel's people, the Jews, is prophesied to be "a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time." But thank God there is this promise, "and at that time thy people [Daniel's people, Israel] shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."

Now comes the question—Will the saved people, the saints of God, go through this tribulation, or will Christ come into the air and call out His bride before the tribulation time?

I believe that the Scriptures plainly teach that Christ may come at any moment, and that therefore He must come before this great marked and scheduled period called the Great Tribulation. Others will be converted in the tribulation and so some of these newly converted saints of God will be here on the earth during that time, but first Christ will come to catch away all the saved. The rapture of the saints is the next thing on the calendar of God's prophecy. No prophesied event is to come before it. The one prophetic event next, according to many, many plain statements in the Scripture, the one thing for which we are to constantly watch is Christ's coming to receive us into the air unto Himself!

II. This Strange Modern Fad of a Post-Tribulation Rapture: How It Came About

It is not difficult to show that the present frequent teaching that the saints of God must go through the tribulation is a relatively new fad in its popularity. Not long ago most of the great Bible teachers and most premillennial believers were agreed on the great doctrine of the imminency of Christ's coming. Everyone who stressed the imminency of Christ's coming, as Jesus commanded us to do, naturally looked for His coming before the Great Tribulation time.

Consider the editors of the famous Scofield Reference Bible. Aligned with Dr. C. I. Scofield were Dr. Henry G. Weston, president Crozer Theological Seminary; Dr. James M. Gray, president Moody Bible Institute; Dr. William J. Erdman of Princeton; Dr. Arthur T. Pierson; Dr. W. G. Moorehead, president Xenia Theological Seminary; Dr. Elmore Harris, president Toronto Bible Institute; Dr. Arno C. Gaebelein; and Dr. William L. Pettingill. These famous Christian leaders were united on the teaching of Christ's imminent Second Coming before the Great Tribulation.

The Bible institutes were practically all agreed on this matter, as they well might be. D. L. Moody, R. A. Torrey, John Nelson Darby and James M. Gray were all agreed on this matter of the imminence of Christ's coming and the rapture before tribulation. So were W. B. Riley, J. Wilbur Chapman, H. A. Ironside, A. B. Simpson, Louis Sperry Chafer and I. M. Haldeman.

Wheaton College's statement of faith declares boldly, "We believe in 'that blessed hope,' the personal, premillennial, and imminent return of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ." The International Christian Business Mens' Organization affirms the same thing. Moody Bible Institute statement of faith says, Christ's return is imminent, that is, that it may occur at any moment, hence would be before the Great Tribulation.

Dr. Bingham, founder of the Sudan Interior Mission was one of the rare exceptions among leading Christians, and he was quite an oddity in expecting the church to go through the Tribulation.

Dr. Walvoord, president of Dallas Theological Seminary calls attention to the International Congresses on Prophecy held in 1942, 1943 and 1952 in Calvary Baptist Church in New York City. He says, ". . . in each of these inter-

national congresses, about 30 outstanding prophetic teachers took part. In each congress a manifesto was issued setting forth their convictions regarding prophetic truth. All three congresses went on record in favor of the translation of the church before the tribulation without so much as a dissenting vote." —(Christian Life, February, 1955)

The great evangelists, the great premillennial Bible teachers have in a united force and with rare exceptions believed boldly and emphatically that Jesus may come at any moment and that His coming for His saints will be before the Great Tribulation.

So, the upsurge of "post-tribulation rapture" teaching now is a new fad. It is simply the product of the times and evidently will pass away among good, sound Bible-believing Christians, as this generation of devoted and intelligent believers restudy what Scripture says on the question.

1. Recent Emphasis on "Signs" of Christ's Coming Neglected Bible Viewpoint of Its Imminency

I think I can show some of the reasons for this fad.

First, in recent years there has been a great decline in emphasis on the imminence of Christ's coming. Now, the honest reader and teacher of the Gospels must agree that the one matter Jesus stressed the most about His second coming is that it was imminent, at hand, that no one knows the time, that all should constantly watch for His coming. That this is the most urgent teaching of Jesus about His second coming, surely one will agree who reads Matthew 24: 36-51; 25:13; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 12:35-48; Rev. 3:11 and Rev. 22: 7, 12, 20. The expectancy of the apostles and the New Testament Christians that Christ would come in their lifetime was only the proper and inevitable result of taking to heart the warnings and commands of Jesus on the matter. Only as long as we press hard upon people's consciences these plain commands of Jesus to watch for and expect His coming momentarily, then we may expect the good Bible-believing Christians to stay straight on this matter.

It became popular to preach on the signs of Christ's coming. Men began to spend lots of time studying the newspapers, studying history, trying to find sensational evidence that they knew approximately when Jesus would return to earth! As they went into this forbidden field, either setting dates or tending to set times and periods within which Christ must come, preachers neglected to teach the imminency of Christ's coming. The simple truth is that for anybody to teach that Christ could not come until after certain modern signs and events should occur, tends to take people's minds away from the clear teaching of Christ's imminent coming. As preachers preached on signs they more and more neglected the statements of Jesus that no one knows the day nor the hour of His coming.

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(Continued on page 9)

Bellevue Baptist's peerless preacher praises new book

The King of the Jews

A Verse-by-Verse Commentary on Matthew's Gospel

By Evangelist John R. Rice, D.D., Litt.D.



Dr. Robert G. Lee has pastored the great Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, for more than a quarter of a century. For three consecutive terms he served as president of the great Southern Baptist Convention with its constituency of over 7 million. He is internationally considered an oratorical defender of the faith with no living peer. Recently he wrote the editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD the following comment about the book he called "a really wonderful commentary on the Gospel according to Matthew":

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Dr. Bingham, founder of the Sudan Interior Mission was one of the rare exceptions among leading Christians, and he was quite an oddity in expecting the church to go through the Tribulation.

Dr. Walvoord, president of Dallas Theological Seminary calls attention to the International Congresses on Prophecy held in 1942, 1943 and 1952 in Calvary Baptist Church in New York City. He says, ". . . in each of these inter-

Saints Cannot Go Through . . .

(Continued from page 8)

stances, they became oppressed with the wickedness, with troubles, and with the disappointing prospects for humanity.

Actually, everyone of us ought to have remembered that man is incurably bad, that civilization is doomed. But that is no more true now than it was the day Adam and Eve were put outside the Garden of Eden. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has been saving drunkards, harlots, convicts, atheists, Catholics, and Jews for many centuries, and when spoken in the power of the Spirit of God it will continue to do the same marvelous, miraculous work.

But in continually thinking of wars, communism, worldliness, modernism, many good Christians found their whole Christian lives overshadowed with a sense of impending doom. All the signs they heard preached about became so real to them and the Antichrist and the Great Tribulation, the woes preachers loved to preach about became so real to the people that they felt we were on the verge of entering into these horrors.

So then when Christ did not come, many became disheartened and began to feel that we must be going into the Great Tribulation itself.

3. Greatly Influenced by Amillennialists

This is an emotional approach which grew out of a failure to keep the great doctrine of the imminence of Christ's coming in its proper place and focus.

Another reason for this rash and fad of post-tribulation rapture teaching is that amillennialism has had a very strong influence on men in our denominational seminaries and sometimes in independent Christian colleges which have long maintained a fundamental position. The amillennialists teach people not to take the Bible very literally, and they very strongly criticise the premillennial position. So, seminary teachers and college professors who wish to be thought scholarly are much influenced by amillennial teaching, by criticism of fundamental premillennial truth, and so they tend to "restudy prophecy." They find it popular to criticize the Scofield Bible, to criticize the Bible institutes and so are swept along by popular thought.

4. A Reaction Against an Overly Rigid Interpretation of Details

It is only fair to say also that this fad of post-tribulation rapture teaching is partly a breaking out from the fetters of a hidebound scheme of teaching which was not all soundly enough based on the Bible. Premillennial teachers have fallen into ruts and have followed certain well-defined teachings beyond what is clearly taught in the Bible. Premillennial men often speak out of "the secret rapture," though the Bible does not say the rapture will be secret. Bible teachers spoke often as though no one would be saved in the Great Tribulation time. Revelation 7:9-14 tells of uncounted millions of all nations who will be saved during that time. Many premillennialists who recognize that Christ is coming before the tribulation have been guilty of overdispensationalism. For example, they have sometimes written and taught as if the Holy Spirit will not be in the world at all, in the Great Tribulation, but will be taken out at the rapture completely. I think, rather, that II Thessalonians 2:7 speaking of "he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way" simply means that the Holy Spirit's restraining work through the Christians in whom He now dwells, will be taken out when they are caught up to meet Christ in the air. The Holy Spirit Himself will certainly be in this world as before to convict and to save where the Gospel is preached in power.

Let me repeat again, I think that there is a healthy, commendable ferment of thought and that men are breaking away from certain staid and set details of teachings which cannot be proven by the Bible. But, they sometimes tend to throw away the wheat

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

ed so continually on the text, "Ye Must Be Born Again." Finally his deacons visited him to enquire why he preached again and again on this same text.

"Because," said the preacher, "you must be born again."

What the Saviour made so emphatic, he felt worth repeating. So, what the Saviour Himself repeated again and again, we feel is worth repeating here.

In Matthew 24:36-39 the Lord Jesus says that the coming of the Son of man shall be as sudden and unexpected as the flood came in the days of Noah, "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Suddenly and unexpectedly, with no schedule by which the antideluvians could know when the flood was coming, that disaster came. And such will be the coming of the Son of man. It will be so sudden and unexpected as not to allow any clearly marked seven years of Daniel's 70th week, or any three and one half years of clearly identified great tribulation to come before and announce His Coming.

See what Jesus said in Matthew 24:42: "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." And again in Matthew 24:44: "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye

think not the Son of man cometh."

In Matthew 25:13 Jesus said: "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Is that what Jesus would have said, if His coming to take His own would occur only after the Great Tribulation?

Now suppose that Jesus had known that He would not come to take up His own, the saved, to meet Him in the air, and for the prophesied wedding feast the time in heavenly mansions and the judgment at the judgment seat of Christ, until after the tribulation

(Continued on page 10)

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with the chaff and to disregard great Bible doctrines, because they are sometimes mixed in with the opinions of men which cannot always stand rigorous investigation.

As the best Bible teachers in the past have been nearly unanimous on this matter, so it must be again when the question is re-examined in the light of the great central teaching of the Second Coming, that is, that Christ's coming is imminent, that He may come at any moment to catch away His bride into the air.

III. The Imminence of Christ's Coming Means Rapture Before Tribulation

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(Continued from page 10)

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This is one of the finest films I have seen in a long, long time. It is the story of Cathy, the lovely little girl with a brace on her leg and Tony, the tough little neighbor boy who is her constant companion. It is also the story of Cathy's hard-working mother, who having been deserted by her husband, is greatly disturbed that Cathy begs to attend church after finding a church bulletin with a picture of the Saviour printed upon it.

This is a picture of chuckles and tears—and salvation through Jesus Christ.

One of the most moving, and at the same time humorous, parts of the story is a wonderful scene of Cathy with a group of little Negro children who were playing church. Forbidden by her mother to attend the mission services for boys and girls after school, Cathy walks sadly down the alley. Suddenly she hears children singing, Negro children. They are playing church in a deserted garage. When the children found out that Cathy did not go to church, the little "preacher" said, "reckon she's a sinnah." When Cathy explained that her mother would not allow her to go to the Sunday School and church, the little fellow broke in with, "She mus' be a Communist!" But it was Cathy's association with the Negro children that led her to the mission teacher who won her to the Saviour.

A splendid film all ages will thoroughly enjoy. Photography, script, and continuity and acting are all excellent. Ken Anderson wrote the script, and it seems that everything this man writes is good.

Sunday on the Range

Produced by Great Commission Films for Delta Productions, Inc. In color by Technicolor. Rental \$15.00. Running time: thirty-five minutes.

In this excellent film you spend a pleasant thirty-five minutes with Redd Harper and his friends on the ranch. Most of the film is filled with music as Redd sings his, "Lord, Keep Your Hand on Me." Loretta Spencer sings Stuart Hamblen's Sunday School Song ("The Lord Is Counting on You"), cowboys sing "Circuit Ridin' Preacher" and "Lie Low Little Dogies" and a splendid trio sings "It's Your Life." Cowboy preacher Leonard Eilers adds colorful interest as he tries to teach a dude how to spin a rope during part of the proceedings. The tenderfoot manages to get himself all tangled up and once, while trying to rope a fence post, he ropes a young lady who, believing he is trying to flirt, freezes him with an icy stare! Georgia Lee (as mother) does a splendid job of bedtime story telling as she puts six-year-old Rickie to bed and tells him about Gideon. The little fellow drops off to sleep, dreaming of a time when "six-year-old boys are men and women have not yet been invented!"

A dandy film any age group who appreciates music will enjoy.

The Message in the Bottle

Produced by Better Films. Color. Running time: twenty minutes. Rental fee \$7.50.

This is a story of a retired sea captain, Grandpa Bartlett, and his

News Notes

(Continued from page 10)

ing. What a worshiper gives is no concern of the usher.

"Don't dress garishly, a practice that might detract from the service's dignity."

On the other hand, Hosman advises church ushers to "make like a bank vice-president." He suggested ushers get pointers also from the way traffic cops, crowd engineers, hotel greeters and department store floorwalkers treat the public.

(Editorial comment: It is our studied opinion that every evangelistic church should have their finest, most spiritual men at the door to greet the public. The impression a visitor receives from the usher who greets him as he enters, since it is a *first* impression, is often the opinion that stranger carries away relative to the entire church. Undeniably, it is a major factor, at least, in not only his opinion of the church but in preparing him for favorable acceptance of the church's ministry.)

Good Reading for Spanish Speaking People

A fine Spanish publication, LA VOZ, is put out by our good mis-

tiny granddaughter who found a whisky bottle washed up on the shore. Bringing the bottle to the house, she eagerly looks to see if there is a message in the bottle. She found none, but her grandfather insisted there was a message in the bottle and he told her of the stormy day her father and older brother were lost in a storm at sea because a drunken captain had insisted on taking the ship out.

As he begins his story the camera rolls time backward and the incident is enacted. As Grandpa Bartlett concludes the story, Jenny Lou prints the word "poison" on the bottle's label and places it where seafaring men may see it and be warned.

This film is done in beautiful color and the photography is excellent. The action is a bit too slow, it seems to me, and the acting is amateurish. Every person in the cast, however, is saved and helped in the making of the film because they loved the Lord.

Seconds to Midnight

Produced by Evangel Films. Color. Running time: fifty-five minutes.

Here is another full-length feature film in full color by the same company that produced "The Missing Christians" and other fine films.

In "Seconds to Midnight" a group of people, with an unsaved person, meet in the pastor's home to see a government film release of the atomic bomb. This is a spectacular film showing several atomic bomb explosions and then explaining by means of a superimposed chart the destruction one great sinister bomb could do to a great metropolis like New York City. It is a film calculated to build respect in the minds and hearts of American people on atomic and hydrogen warfare. At the conclusion of the film the pastor says a few well-chosen words to his guests and they arrange to be in church the following day.

For the Sunday sermon the pastor chooses to preach on "Seconds to Midnight." In the message he emphasizes his thought that the end of the age is upon us, the twilight hour is past, darkness has set in and it is now seconds till the midnight hour when Jesus Christ shall come again. As proof, the pastor illustrates the increase in knowledge since the prophet foretold that in the last days knowledge would increase. This is demonstrated by modern scientific discoveries, transportation facilities, etc. He also explains that the "rushing to and fro in the streets" might mean modern automobile traffic. There are striking pictures of modern jet airplanes—the eagles' wings that should preserve Jerusalem.

The film ends with an earnest appeal to the unsaved.

While we do not agree that there are any signs that definitely prove that it is now only a

(Continued on page 12)

sionary friend, Rev. Norman Lewis. Total circulation as of August was 110,000 copies. Their goal is 125,000 by the end of this year.

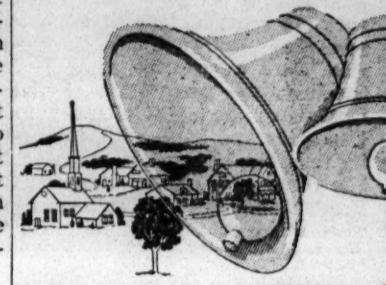
If you are interested in a fundamental Christian Spanish paper, then please write to Missionary Norman Lewis, Casilla de Correo 650, Rosario, Argentina. The "Suscripción" annual: 2 pesos.

— THE END —

THE MESSAGE IN THE BOTTLE

20 minutes of sound color film based on a drama of the sea. See and hear Grandpa tell how one person under the influence of alcohol affected the lives of innocent people.

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Pictures That Preach

(Continued from page 11)

matter of minutes or hours until the Saviour will return, we do agree that one cannot overemphasize the fact that Christ may come at any minute.

This is a splendid film and, if used with an earnest invitation at its conclusion, should result in the salvation of many.

Life of St. Paul Series

Produced and distributed by Cathedral Films. Color and black and white. Running time: about thirty minutes. Available on rental basis.

I have just seen three films in the "Life of St. Paul" series and they are splendid. The first I saw was the story of Saul's conversion. Here we see the stoning of Stephen; the persecution of the Christians; the flight of many to Damascus and Saul, with authority from the high priest, pursuing. His conversion on the Damascus Road, his blindness and subsequent restoration of sight is faithfully portrayed.

The next in the series that I saw was entitled "Ambassador for Christ." Here is the story of Paul's attempt to preach Christ in the synagogue; his rejection; the uproar; his journey to Arabia; his stay there and his return to Palestine; his ministry and persecution. This film comes to a dramatic climax as Paul is let down over the wall in a basket.

The third film in the series I saw was "Trial at Jerusalem." Actually, it is more than his trial at Jerusalem. It also includes the bitter accusations, the railing of the Jews and priests, his stand before Agrippa and Felix, his appeal for Roman justice, etc. The story ends as he is put aboard a ship heading for Rome.

These films are true to the Bible. Most of the dialogue is actually "of Scripture." And technically, the films are produced with professional quality throughout. I understand that Cathedral Films uses some professional actors and actresses in the production of their Gospel films. Whatever one's views on this may be (I don't like it) there is no getting around the fact that this is an intensely interesting way of studying the Bible. And I felt that my own children, who saw the films with me, learned more about the book of Acts from watching these films than they had ever known before.

The Glass Mountain

Produced by and obtainable through Westminster Films. Color. Running time one hour. Free-will offering basis.

This is a film being released this fall by Westminster Films. William E. Brusseau writes that he and Evangelist Merv Rosell are anxious for me to see it and that a copy will be sent to me at an early date for reviewing it in THE SWORD OF THE LORD. From the advance publicity I understand that this is the story of a young woman whose ambition and talent combined to place her in a position the world envied—but who knew little of genuine peace and happiness. An advance news release on the film says:

"A moment long to be remembered in 'Glass Mountain' is the dawning—the entrance of Jesus, the living Christ, into the life of this girl who is brought from the pinnacle of achievement into the valley of despair that she might behold the glory of almighty God and seek only the riches of His kingdom."

Evangelist Merv Rosell's Rose Bowl Easter Sunrise message is included in the film. As readers of THE SWORD OF THE LORD know, Merv Rosell is one of America's truly great soul-winning evangelists. Dr. Lee Roberson, pastor of the Highland Park Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tennessee (that church that has led the Southern Baptist Convention in conversions and additions for years) told me recently that Evangelist Rosell had been with him in a revival campaign and that Merv was doubtless one of the greatest preachers in all the world today. I mention that in order to say that since he has the leading part in "The Glass Moun-

tain" and his message is given in the film, I am confident the film will be an outstanding one. We hope to give a full review of it at an early date.

The Way Out

Produced by Missions Visualized, Inc., for Berean Gospel Distributors, Inc. Rental per day, \$13.50; purchase price, \$235.00. Running time: forty-four minutes.

This film has been reviewed in these pages before but I believe that it has hardly enjoyed the reception it deserves. It is the true story of the conversion of Al Johnson, a bank robber. The film includes scenes of the holdup when Al robbed the Hoyt State Bank in Hoyt, Kansas; the getaway, the chase, the pursuit by bloodhounds, the hide-out; romantic scenes of his falling in love and his marriage—and finally the scenes which portray his conversion and his public confession.

This film received an award as the outstanding soul-winning film for 1953.

Time and Eternity

Produced by Moody Institute of Science and distributed by the Film Department of Moody Bible Institute. Color, sound. Running time: forty-four minutes. Rental: \$25.00.

This film is another "Sermon from Science" by Dr. Irwin A. Moon. The film is made in the Moody Institute of Science laboratories in Los Angeles and is a discussion of the relative aspects of time.

By means of a specially designed camera that takes a couple of thousand frames of movie film per second, a trickle of milk is divided into drops which slowly fall into a saucer. It takes several seconds to witness each drop, when actually the entire stream of milk was poured in a couple of seconds. Next, a camera is used that takes one frame every ten minutes; and we watch clouds seethe and boil, flowers grow and several days and nights pass in a matter of seconds. There is an elementary discussion of Einstein's theory of relativity. The logical conclusion of the film is the fact that God is eternal and lives in an ever-present now. That is why God calls Himself "I AM." That is why Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I am."

This film, like all M.B.I.S. films, is superbly made. It is technically done to perfection. The results it achieves will depend, it seems to me, largely on the type of invitation that follows its showing.

A good film, especially for high school and college age groups.

This Way to Heaven

Produced and distributed by Concordia Films. Sound, black and white. Rental: \$9.00.

Little Jimmy was intrigued by all the people who attended the nearby church. Going over one day, he had quite a conversation with Mr. Burke, the Sunday School superintendent. Walking up to him, Jimmy looked up into his face and, with touching sincerity asked, "Mister, is this the way to Heaven? This church?"

And just as earnestly and kindly came the answer, "The way to

Heaven? No, son, this church isn't the way to Heaven. Jesus Christ is the way to Heaven and here in this church we tell people of Him." The boy is then invited to attend the Sunday School, and this he does regularly.

In the meantime, dissension rocks the home. His brother, Tommy, just barely older than he, steals money from the household expense fund. The mother and father bicker and quarrel. It is then that Jimmy persuades his brother to go with him to the church where they learn of the way to Heaven. As a result, both boys are won to Christ and Tommy confesses that he is the thief who took the money. His parents are not only shocked but also bewildered as the boy explains that he has learned in Sunday School how bad sin is and assures them that he is going to be a good boy and follow Christ from now on. This leads to self-examination on the part of the parents and ultimately the entire family is attending the services of the church and Sunday School together.

This is one of the finest Gospel Films Concordia has yet produced. It will not only encourage Sunday School teachers and officers in the work God has called them to do, but will also show the importance of having the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our homes.

The picture is beautifully made, the acting is superb, and the message helpful. You would do well to see it.

If readers wish to enquire further about the possible purchase or rental of any of these films, we would be glad to forward your enquiry to the proper distributor.

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Superbly acted and directed, this half-hour film tells the Sunday School Story with touching realism and warmth.

Ask your local religious film dealer about rental of THIS WAY TO HEAVEN . . . we are sure that you will be deeply gratified by the enjoyment and enlightenment it will offer your congregation.

30 minutes • Black & White • 16mm • Rental, \$9.00

Concordia FILMS

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